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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,
February 21, 1843.

Read and ordered to be printed.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO EXAMINE THE

STATE'S TOBACCO WAREHOUSES,

IN THE

CITY OF BALTIMORE.

REPORT.

The select committee appointed by the order of the House, adopted January 23rd, and instructed to proceed to Baltimore and enquire and examine into the condition of the tobacco warehouses in the said city—the expediency of building an additional inspection warehouse—re-building or re-constructing the No. 3 warehouse, &c. beg leave to make the following report:

That in obedience to the instructions contained in the said order, they proceeded to Baltimore, and entered into an examination of the condition and affairs of the tobacco warehouses, the result of which they herewith furnish to the House: remarking, that they attentively examined the books, &c. of the different warehouses, and believe the statement presented of the internal affairs, a correct one, being compiled with great care. The buildings of the different warehouses they found to be in good condition, with the exception of one of the houses at the No. 3 inspection, the condition of which was fully represented to this House in the report of the committee on inspections, made at the last session, and to which they would refer, without embodying it in this report, for information. There is a necessity that something should be done by the Legislature, by either re-builing or re-constructing the house alluded to, or by throwing both houses under one roof—of this, however, the committee will speak hereafter. The repairs, ordered at last session by joint resolution, to be done at one of these houses, and at No. 1 warehouse, have been done; and no repairs appears to be needed, or alterations to be made, except that spoken of, and the raising of the floor, and the wharf at the No. 2 warehouse. To provide for this latter, resolutions have already passed the House, to authorize the inspector at No. 2, to issue for proposals, to raise the floor of the warehouse and the wharf opposite, and thus provide against the dangers, to which the tobacco stored therein is exposed, from the rising of the waters, which has on two occasions covered the ground floor.

A heavy year's inspection has been done at the four warehouses, of which the committee herewith furnish a statement, compiled from the books, and which they present, for information, in detail; to show, at a glance, the magnitude of the inspections, and the importance of the fostering care of the State over them.

STATEMENT,

Of the amount of Inspections, monthly, at each Warehouse.

1842.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	Amount.
January,	Hhds. 56	33	50	68	207
February,	145	2	29	114	290
March,	938	1,074	572	618	3,202
April,	1,163	1,447	1,375	1,450	5,435
May,	2,243	1,869	1,946	2,107	8,165
June,	1,820	1,911	2,103	2,364	8,198
July,	530	360	1,635	1,312	3,837
August,	1,236	1,206	1,707	1,428	5,577
Septemb'r	1,732	1,254	1,508	1,243	5,737
October,	1,044	869	563	310	2,786
November	268	776	537	113	1,694
December	386	629	366	141	1,522
Agg'ate,	11,561	11,430	12,391	11,268	46,650

From this it will be seen that the inspections of the year was exceedingly large, and increased above that of the previous year about 7,000 hogsheads; and there were inspected in January 1843, 401 hhds., being 194 more than during the same month in the year 1842. There was remaining on hand in the different warehouses, unshipped, on the 1st of January, 1842, 7,857 hhds., as follows:

At Warehouse	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	
	2,990	2,012	1,337	1,518—	7,857 hhds.
Insp'ted in 1842,	11,561	11,430	12,391	11,268—46,650	"
	14,551	13,442	13,728	12,786—54,507	"

Making in all 54,507 hogsheads, the stock of the year 1842, of which however 3 hogsheads, at No. 3 Warehouse, were condemned. The amount of shipments of tobacco from the four warehouses was also very large—in all amounting to 44,837 hogsheads, as follows:

STATEMENT,

Of the amount of Shipments during 1842.

1842.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	Amount.
January,	430	206	89	155	880
February,	679	717	460	472	2,328
March,	1,193	886	527	591	3,197
April,	633	890	743	885	3,151
May,	1,259	1,520	1,195	1,269	5,243
June,	1,478	1,667	1,391	1,819	6,355
July,	1,118	968	1,171	1,612	4,869
August,	1,121	1,371	2,087	1,355	5,934
Septemb'r,	1,348	786	1,517	1,504	5,155
October,	2,084	1,485	1,234	893	5,696
Novemb'r	393	269	604	639	1,905
December	22	15	70	17	124
Agg'ate,	11,758	10,780	11,088	11,211	44,837

Leaving on hand in the several warehouses, on the 1st day of January, 1843, 9,667 hhds., as follows:

At Warehouse	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	
	2,793	2,662	2,637	1,575—	9,667 hhds.
And there was inspected in the month of January 1843,	75	96	143	87—	401 "

Which added to the amount on hand, makes 10,068 hhds., of which were shipped, during the month of January, 1843, 2,807 hhds., as follows:

At Warehouse	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	
	841	899	571	496—	2,807 hhds.

Which being deducted from the amount of 10,068 hogsheads, leaves on hand, the 1st February, 1843, 7,661 hogsheads in all the warehouses, and making the amount of shipments from the 1st of January, 1842, to the 1st of February, 1843, 47,644 hogsheads.

The committee were instructed to examine into the expenditures of the warehouses, which they did, and the vouchers thereof. They find by the books and accounts of the several Inspectors, the following amount of expenditures, in the gross, which they present for condensation in quarterly statements, with reference to the fiscal year of the warehouses, commencing on the 1st of February, 1842, and ending the 31st day of January, 1843. They are as follows:

STATEMENT.

	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.
For the quarters ending				
April 30, 1842,	$1,638 32	1,492 98	1,513 64	1,510 75
July 31, "	2,248 12	2,159 16	3,171 93	2,686 99
Oct. 31, "	2,301 86	2,124 19	3,648 39	2,061 92
Jan. 31, 1843,	1,325 81	1,094 96	1,022 99	1,005 51
	$7,514 11	6,871 29	9,356 95	7,265 17

Of the warehouses, it will be seen that the heaviest expenditures have been made at the No. 3 Warehouse, which can be accounted for the more readily, from the fact that this warehouse was under the indispensable necessity of procuring houses by renting, for the purpose of storing out inspected tobacco, to make room for the reception of that arriving for inspection, which, with the expenses incident thereto, amounted to about $2,000. And at the No. 2 Warehouse $370 were expended by the Inspector, in putting in order the tobacco damaged by the flood, cleaning up and repairing the house, consequent upon that occurrence. The whole amount of actual expenditure during the fiscal year was $31,007 52, and the expenditure for labor was as follows:

STATEMENT.

	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.
For the quarters ending				
April 30, 1842,	$1,104 00	862 00	814 00	832 00
July 31, "	1,582 50	1,304 00	1,503 00	1,637 75
Oct. 31, "	1,541 00	1,244 50	1,446 00	1,262 75
Jan. 31, 1843,	914 00	893 50	816 00	920 00
	$5,141 50	4,304 00	4,579 00	4,652 50

Making the entire amount expended for labor $18,677.

The expenditure for nails was as follows:

STATEMENT.

	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.
For the quarters ending				
April 30, 1842,	$477 80	506 40	541 75	538 15
July 31, "	503 55	699 60	1,011 25	789 60
Oct. 31, "	668 75	655 85	828 70	348 15
Jan. 31, "	174 95	200 00	none.	none.
	$1,825 05	2,061 85	2,381 70	1,575 90

Making the amount for nails . . .	$7,844 50
To which add the amount for labor . .	18,677 00
Amounts to the sum of . . .	$26,521 50

Which being deducted from the amount of actual expenditures, $31,007 52, leaves the sum of $4,486 02, expended for repairs ordered at the last session to be done at Nos. 1 and 3 Warehouses: and for books, occasional repairs, tools and sundries, all of which are accounted for.

The amounts paid, during the fiscal year, to the Treasurer of the Western Shore for the tobacco fund, from each of the warehouses, were as follows:

STATEMENT.

	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.
For the quarters ending				
April 30, 1842,	$1,570 83	1,492 98	659 36	942 37
July 31, "	2,603 00	3,154 29	1,526 32	3,203 88
Oct. 31, "	3,428 89	2,432 81	2,611 68	2,656 70
Jan. 31, 1843,	567 69	559 57	553 45	525 00
	$8,170 41	7,639 65	5,350 31	7,327 95

Exhibiting an amount paid to the Treasurer of	$28,488 82
To which add the amount of actual expenses,	31,007 52
Shows the receipts of the warehouses, for 12 months, to have been . . .	$59,496 34

The aggregate for the fiscal year is as follows:

On hand in the warehouses, February 1, 1842,	7,184	hhds.
Inspected from Feb. 1, 1842, to Feb. 1, 1843,	46,844	"
	54,028	"

Which the tobacco fund is entitled to for outage, at $1,25 per hogshead,—making an amount of $67,535—and there were shipped from February 1, 1842, to February 1, 1843, 47,437 hogsheads, for which the said fund is credited, at $1,25 per hogshead; making an amount of $59,296; and there was remaining on hand in the warehouses, February 1, 1843, 7,261 hogsheads, which, at $1,25 per hogshead, is $9,076; this added to the amount shipped, makes $68,372, from which deduct the amount which the fund is entitled to, leaves $837 received by the warehouses, for sales of scrap tobacco, extra cooperage, &c.

Of the whole amount of tobacco inspected during the year 1842, at the warehouses, there were as follows:

STATEMENT.

	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	Hhds.
From Ohio, . . .	244	367	5,893	5,015	11,519
" Kentucky, .	197	20	169	613	999
" Virginia, . .	29	40	56	62	187
" Indiana, .	16	. .	. .	. .	16
" Carolina, . .	2	. .	. .	. .	2
" Missouri, .	. .	20	85	. .	105
" Pennsylvania,	. .	. .	8	. .	8
	488	447	6,211	5,690	12,836
" Maryland, .	11,073	10,983	6,180	5,578	33,814
Total, . .	11,561	11,430	12,391	11,268	46,650

From which it will be seen, that the receipts of foreign tobacco are more than one-fourth of the whole amount inspected, and that the state of Ohio alone, furnishes to the Baltimore market, more than one-third as much, as does Maryland; and nearly one-fourth as much as the whole amount inspected. It will also be seen, that almost the entire bulk of the foreign tobacco, is inspected at the warehouses Nos. 3 and 4, situated on the west side of the basin, at the terminus of a lateral switch of the main stem of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, and nearer in point of eligibility to the depots of the companies, who transport, upon the internal improvements of Pennsylvania ; and that, whatever increase takes place in the receipts of western tobacco, must, from their situations, be received and accommodated at these warehouses.

The committee, from their investigation, can find little cause of complaint against the conduct of the affairs of the warehouses, believing as they do, that the inspectors have conducted the operations of the houses, with an eye to the great and important interest over which they are placed, to guard and protect. From their examination, it does not appear that an unnecessary amount of labor has been employed, as it requires a large number of hands to facilitate the business during the busy season, which comprehends about nine months of the year; but they believe, that if a law was passed, limiting the number of hands to each warehouse to four, the balance of the year, that much would be saved to the tobacco fund, as comparatively little is done during the months of December, January and February.

The committee are of the opinion, that there is a necessity of designating by law, a "Shipping Clerk," and a "Marker and Weigher," for each warehouse. As the law now is, but one clerk is allowed to each, and at times, even three and four extra hands, employed in these capacites, must be obtained, to facilitate inspection. By designating these as officers by law, and appointed by the inspectors, much more responsibility would

attach to their situations, and it would contribute to quiet apprehensions of malfeasance, which have gone abroad, growing out of an imagined irresponsibility on the part of any, except the inspectors and the clerk appointed by law. Some complaints having been made about the errors of weighing and shipping, the committee were induced to pay some attention to the complaints, and they accordingly caused to be re-weighed, at each warehouse, ten hogsheads indiscriminately, and found upon comparison with the former weights, some of them of recent, and some of older inspections, that there was but a slight variation, and nothing to disturb the accuracy of general average at each warehouse. They are however satisfied, that mistakes will and must occur at the warehouses, particularly in the hurry of business, as well in shipping and marking, as in weighing the tobacco. Wrong numbers and marks may be put upon hogsheads, and in consequence, an error in shipping follows; but in every instance, the mistakes as the committee learned, were either detected and rectified on the spot, or the inspector satisfying or indemnifying the owner or shipper,—more he cannot do, for it is not to be presumed, that under as heavy a bond and penalty as they are, they will suffer mistakes to take place knowingly, when they are responsible for them. The apprehensions alluded to, however, will be removed by the appointment of a shipping clerk and a weigher, who will be bound to see that all is correct. A direction ought also to be given to the inspectors, in all instances to employ the most efficient labor, and at all times when their services are most needed, provide a supply of good hands, these can always be readily obtained with but little difficulty, and while the committee cannot see any objection to an inspector employing his own hands, yet others that are needed, should be of the very best character, and no inspector should be allowed to indulge a favoriteism in selecting hands, but should always obtain the most able bodied, and best acquainted with the duties of the warehouse, as inefficient hands cannot do as much work, and besides are wasteful of nails, and impede the operations of the houses.

The committee, from the inquiries they have made, and the results of the reflections they have had upon the subject, are deeply impressed with the opinion and importance of erecting an additional warehouse. They are satisfied from the information which they obtained, that the amount of inspections will continually increase. The western states are engaging largely in the growth of tobacco, and Maryland certainly possesses advantages for its reception, inspection and shipment, that are not possessed by any of the Atlantic states. In New Orleans the planter is saddled with heavy expenses for inspection and outage. In New York and Philadelphia it is also the case, but in Baltimore there is no charge at all for inspection, and besides, there the planter gets paid one dollar for the cask, in every instance, which is done in no other city in the Union, making a difference of two dollars to the grower of the article. Besides our eligi-

bility, the cheapness of transportation to our market, the ease and rapidity with which sales are made, and so many large and heavy operations in the article being located here, gives us advantages which are no where else to be obtained. Surrounded as we are, and having in our own borders works of improvement, that have already opened channels of communication and furnished means of transport, from which we already begin to feel their beneficial effect, and invites the West to avail itself of our markets, and evinces to us the importance of our position. Those whose opinions are entitled to weight, agree, that if an additional warehouse were now built, a call would again be made, e're many years to build another. An addition to the receipts of five thousand hogsheads from Ohio alone, will be experienced, which was last year about twelve thousand. The committee would therefore urge upon the House, the importance of erecting another warehouse, remarking at the same time, that a house could be built without any expense to the State, as the contract for payment of it might be based upon the future revenues of the warehouses.

The re-building or re-constructing the No. 3 Warehouse, engaged the attention of the committee, as also a subject of importance: but this cannot be done until a new house is erected, to measurably relieve that house while the necessary construction is going on. It should, however, be done as soon as possible, as the house does not now afford facilities like to the others. The necessity of the repairs alluded to is apparent, from the fact that about two thousand dollars were here expended for storing out tobacco, with the expense incident thereto; the interest on a much greater sum than would be required to make the proposed alterations—and surely if the tobacco fund is to be annually chargable with this sum, and probably more, as a kind of interest, it would be far preferable for the fund to bear that abstraction, in the form of interest upon an amount expended, for the construction of a building—to say nothing of the value to the tobacco fund of the ownership of a substantial building.

The committee cannot refrain from again pressing the importance of erecting an additional house. If the State establishes tobacco warehouses, and invites tobacco here for inspection, it certainly is her interest to furnish all the facilities in her power to the trade: she has done this, the trade has been brought here—has increased, and is still increasing—while other States are grasping at the treasures poured into our lap; and the prospective increase calls for facilities commensurate with it. They therefore hope that the attention of the Legisture may be given to the subject.

The committee would also recommend the passage of an act or resolution, requiring the inspectors of tobacco, to issue for proposals to furnish nails, of a quality acceptable to them, believing that a great saving could be effected in that item. They could draw out their remarks to a much greater extent, but deem that

they have already in their exhibit to the House of the condition of the warehouses, and their reflections upon the results, said sufficient to call the attention of the House to the importance of the tobacco inspections, and they will make further reports by bill or otherwise.

All of which is respectfully submitted:

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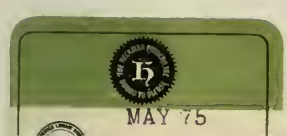
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